

MM 93 48

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SEP 29 1995

**From:** Eric Stetson <estetson@ix.netcom.com>  
**To:** A16.A16(kidstv)  
**Date:** 9/28/95 8:40pm  
**Subject:** Children's Television Act

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

To whom it may concern:

The Federal Government has no business regulating private television stations. The Children's Television Act and all other efforts of state censorship amount to Orwellian thought control and should not be part of American society. Our nation was intended to be a land of liberty, not the socialistic welfare state it has become; with this in mind, media should simply not be controlled in any way by the government -- regardless of good intentions. Quality children's programming should be provided voluntarily by the private sector. The market exists and will be sought out naturally.

Overall, I am angry and appalled at the current regime in Washington under which we must live. It is time to return to the philosophy of freedom as put forth by the Founding Fathers more than two centuries ago.

Sincerely,

Eric Stetson  
<estetson@ix.netcom.com>

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PM 93-48

SEP 29 1995

**From:** Joanna Denise Friesner <jfriesne@uclink.berkeley.edu>  
**To:** A16.A16(kidstv)  
**Date:** 9/28/95 10:33pm  
**Subject:** counteracting homophobia

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOCKET 93-48

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Hello,

I recently read about the programming for children's television. Television has been an influential medium, through such shows as Sesame Street, children learn about racial diversity and acceptance of others. It is time to make shows that deal with people of differing sexual orientations. In the same way that television shows from the past were racist because they did not represent non-white people, today almost all shows are heterosexist and homophobic because they do not represent Gays, lesbians and bisexuals, or if they do, it is in a negative way. If a show came out today that represented, say, a Black family in a negative way, it would be pulled off the air and called racist. In the same vein, shows that ignore differing sexual orientations, or only show them in a negative way, are homophobic and heterosexist. It is important that the children of today learn to accept others not only on the basis of their skin color, physical ability/disability, religion and culture, but also on their sexual orientation. It is the responsibility of media representatives to bring these justices to light. Please support the children of today, to make a better U.S. of tomorrow.

Thank you,  
Joanna Friesner  
UC Berkeley

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M. St., NW  
Washington, DC 20554

9/26/95

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SEP 29 1995

Dear Sirs:

In response to your request for parents' input on children's shows, I would like to see more shows that present situations that children face in school, in the home and in the community--not the comedy sitcoms you see on TV today.

A good example of a show is "Puzzle Place" on educational television. The puppet characters represent children of all races who live in the same community and get in situations that all children do--i.e., there was an episode on one ~~child's~~ <sup>show</sup> racial background, Indian, and it showed the Sioux indian customs.

In fact, a good show would present a wider world view--be educational, as well as entertaining. The children themselves would tell you that they look forward to shows such as "Puzzle Place" because the characters mirror themselves with the same fears, questions and dreams.

I realize that the commercial TV programs such as VR Troopers and Power Rangers were very popular with the children--but what kind of message did it relay? Do we want children to mimic the violence that they see the heroes portray? Our society is becoming so violent and insensitive that we need to get back to the basic values that make human beings capable of helping others, knowing right from wrong and hard work over fast, easy money. Sadly, the shows that seem to do well are not appropriate for children--they don't need to be mini-adults.

As you can see, I don't like much of what I see on TV and it mirrors ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> society. There is a lot of sex, violence and brash insensitivity. If the future generation spends a lot of time seeing that on television, no wonder we hear about that in the news all over our country.

Get back to basics and it doesn't have to be boring or blah--it can be entertaining and have a worthwhile moral lesson. If its done well--it would even be spiritually uplifting to the majority that see it--much like the movie "Cocoon" or "Back to the Future I." Where the good guys overcome the bad guys for a reason--and it doesn't have to be a Christian world view type of reason--just a basic one that all religions share.

Thank you for letting me share my views with you.

*Gayle Nakashima*  
Gayle Nakashima

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SEP 29 1995

FCC MAIL ROOM

From: Randl Holland and Dave Camp  
Academy for Family TV  
2500 NE 65th Av.  
Vancouver, Wa. 98661

To: All Who Are Concerned About Violence and Sex on TV  
September 15, 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

"To hell with kids - that must be the motto of the new fall TV season....As a Wall Street Journal news story put it in a recent headline, 'It's 8 p.m. Your Kids Are Watching Sex on TV.' ...Vulgarity rules in prime time...Say goodbye to the "family hour". (US News, 9/11/95). If that makes you worry... if it makes you angry... please read on.

Through October 16, 1995, the FCC is asking for public comment on how broadcasters can best fulfill the Children's Television Act. (See US News and World Report, Sept. 11, 1995, pp.62-70.) This is a rare opportunity to make our views heard to those who have the power to cause change.

Talking among ourselves is a waste of energy and worry: make your voice heard, and encourage others to do the same. Please distribute copies of this letter (or your own version), and gather as many signatures as you are able to before OCTOBER 10. Send the letters and signatures to:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Or send E-mail to: [kldstv@fcc.gov](mailto:kldstv@fcc.gov)

Indicate MM Docket 93-48 at the top of the first page.

Try methods like a pyramid scheme: get signatures from whole groups (church, Rotary, schools, sports groups, PEO, Elks, business groups, Bar and medical associations, etc.), and ask signers to get more signatures. Consider your local newspapers, radio stations, and TV media. The FCC should be flooded with letters from all over the nation. All letters and E-mail must be received by the FCC by Oct. 16, 1995. There is no time to waste! No one can be expected to respond to our concerns if we do not voice them to those who can address them. Act quickly and efficiently - go to groups if it's faster than going door to door.

THANK YOU for acting upon your convictions.

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By signing this letter of petition, I express my profound concern over the effects of television violence, sex, and vulgarity. I ask the FCC to take a very strong stand in turning back the tide of destructive influences that are flooding American homes and minds.

Sirley Holland

Jane Buchanan

Alice L. Wilcox

Bonnie J. Buchanan

Delwyn D. Callis

Carole D. Spencer

Corinne Jones

James B. Holland

MM Docket 93-48

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554  
E-mail: kidstv@fcc.gov

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SEP 29 1995  
FCC MAIL ROOM

September 14, 1995

The FCC's request for public comment shows an understanding of the worry Americans feel about a genuinely life-threatening cancer in American society - violence in the media.

Is there another issue you can name that has captured the attention of so many citizens? Is there another crisis short of war that could have driven so many groups to take a stand? Scan this partial list of national organizations that have publicly stated their support for a reduction in violence and vulgarity on TV:

- The American Medical Association
- The American Medical Alliance
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American Psychological Association
- The American Psychiatric Association
- The Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
- The American Nurses Association
- The American Academy of Nursing
- The National PTA
- The National School Boards Association
- The American Association for School Administrators
- The National Sheriffs Association
- The National Child Care Association
- The National Association of Social Workers
- The National Council of Churches
- The National Assoc. for Family and Community Education
- The American Family Association
- The Foundation to Improve TV
- Alliance Against Violence in Entertainment for Children
- Canada's Association for Media Literacy
- Pope John Paul II

There is an infinitely longer list of outraged state and local agencies.

If this were a false alarm - if there were serious doubt that the media's violence and prurience are nurturing a frighteningly violent society - then perhaps the FCC and the media could delay action in good conscience. But study

after study, criminal investigation after criminal investigation, and murder after senseless murder confirms for all of us that we are on a very dangerous path. Murders and beatings are daily fare; and often the cause is a violent reaction to mundane problem.

Are media executives and shareholders willing to live in suburbs like those in South Africa, surrounded by high walls topped with concertina wire, in order to make the extra dollars that violent shows generate? Are they and we willing to see our political and social systems fail, because our citizenry believes more in violent responses than in our political and judicial systems?

It is said that there is even honor among thieves. Surely there is enough honor in the media industry to form agreements to promote the nation's welfare and refrain from encouraging basic violent instincts.

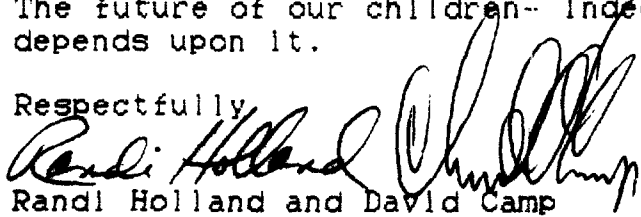
We are writing on behalf of the Academy for Family TV and the countless citizens who share our deep concern. We are a civilized, moderate community of legislators, professionals in medicine and law, educators and businessmen, parents, and proactive citizens. There is not a fanatic among us. Yet we are angry... having to control the impulses that TV, movies, and rap would encourage us to unleash.

It is past time to strengthen the Children's Television Act. It is past the time when defining a given percentage of the television day as children's time is enough. TV is profoundly affecting the thoughts and habits not only of small children, but of adolescents, young adults, and mature adults - all of whom show increasing hostility, bitterness, lack of faith in the nation, and violence toward humanity. Even those of us who abhor unnecessary intrusion by the federal government have reached the end of our patience.

The FCC must obtain a commitment by the TV industry to greatly reduce the violence, vulgarity, and prurience being broadcast, and hold all stations to it; or the FCC must introduce legislation to force the issue.

The future of our children-- indeed the future of our nation-- depends upon it.

Respectfully

  
Randi Holland and David Camp  
Academy for Family Television  
2500 NE 65th Av  
Vancouver, Wa. 98661